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Country presentation for

Nepal

Corrigendum

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ENG

Page xii, last two paragraphs

Replace the existing text with the following:

Water Resources and Infrastructure Development: Transport is considered the most important among the various physical infrastructures. Road density in Nepal is less than 93 km per thousand square km, which is among the lowest in the world. The Government has given high priority in increasing transport facilities especially to consolidate regional integration by linking various parts of the country with the completion of the strategic road network. Through rural road networks the government focuses on farm to market linkages. Similarly, the ongoing development efforts on national communication infrastructure and IT sector will be enhanced and expanded nation-wide.

The Government views the exploitation of hydropower as a major input for economic development as well as a major potential item for export. The Government will encourage as much as possible the private sector for the development of hydro-electricity for both domestic consumption as well as exports. However, public sector may have to continue investing in hydropower development for some times to come because of its high multiplier effect on income and positive impact on social development. Exports of hydropower will be given high priority in the next decade. Government has already introduced new hydropower and IT policies.

Page xiv, last paragraph

Replace the existing text with the following:

Maintaining Law and Order: The acceleration of violent activities waged in the name of so called People's war started from the beginning of the second half of 1990 has impacted not only development activities, but also taking precious lives of many. In order to solve problem, the Government has initiated short-term and long-term measures, which includes dialogue with Maoist to pursue them to come to peaceful solutions. The Government has already invited Maoist for dialogue, but they have not come to the table, yet. Their proposal for dialogue has been proved frivolous. Similarly, packages like "basket funding" and "security and development" for the socio-economic development of the affected areas has been initiated. Security arrangement for the public safety has also been strengthened.

Page 13, second paragraph

Replace the existing text with the following:

Rise in Terrorist Activities

One of the major development constraints of democratic Nepal is acceleration of violent activities waged in the name of Maoists beginning from the second half of 1990. Since 1996, the underground Maoists are waging a so-called 'People's War' with the aim to turn

thecountry into a communist republic. Initially, violence erupted in a few districts of the mid-western region, but now almost 22 districts (of the total 75 districts) in the country have experienced terrorist acts. More than 1,600 people have been killed since the initial wave of violence began and the toll has been rising steadily. The government is trying to resolve the issue through negotiations with the Maoists but has also made it clear that only the cessation of violence will lead to a favourable atmosphere for the talks. This has seriously hampered tourism, a major sources of foreign exchanges in recent years. The new investment activities by government, NGOs and private sector in social sector are also severely affected mainly in mid western hills due to Maoist activities. With the acceleration of violent activities, development activities especially in rebel infected mid western hills coming to a virtual standstill. This has created vicious cycle of further alienation threatening peace and stability. Violent activities has given rise to further deceleration in investment and this lower development activities might trigger to further alienation and rise in violent activities.

Page 18, last paragraph, and Page 19, first three paragraphs

Replace the existing text with the following:

The Bhutanese Refugee Crisis

Since 1990 the first stream of Bhutanese nationals of Nepalese origin began to arrive Nepal from Bhutan via India. As the influx continued to increase it started to put added pressure on the socio-economic condition in parts of eastern Nepal. As a result population pressure on the land exacerbated and the resources have to be diverted from development works to meet the need of the refugees.

To resolve this problem bilaterally, HMG/Nepal and Government of Bhutan have held to-date, ten rounds of talk at the ministerial level. The international community has also shown concern and urged both parties to find ways for the earliest repatriation of almost 100,000 refugees living in camps, eastern Nepal.

The tenth meeting of Ministerial Joint Committee (MJC) held in Kathmandu on 24-28 December, 2000 has made progress towards resolution of this problem. The MJC meeting agreed to establish a Joint Verification Team (JVT) for the validation of family relationship as well as verification of the status of people in the refugees camps, including approval of verification mechanism. The JVT will first validate the identity and family relationship of individuals in the camps to place them into nuclear families/individuals units. Accordingly, the JVT comprising the officials of both countries have began verification process from March 26, 2001, starting from Khudunabari camp, and will be carried out on camp basis. It is hoped the process of verification, once complete, will pave the way for the speedy and smooth repatriation of the refugee to their homeland.

The humanitarian assistance rendered by the international community to the Bhutanese refugees is appreciated and needs to be continued until the eventual repatriation of the refugees.

Page 32, second and third paragraphs

Replace the existing text with the following:

Water resources and Infrastructure Development

Transport is considered the most important among the various physical infrastructures. Road density in Nepal is less than 93 km per thousand square km, which is among the lowest in the world. The Government gives high priority for increasing transport facilities especially to consolidate regional integration by linking various parts of the country by completing the strategic road network and provide farm to market through rural road networks. Similarly, national communication infrastructure and IT sector will be developed and expanded nation-wide.

The Government views the exploitation of hydropower as a major input for economic development as well as a major potential item for export. The Government will encourage as much as possible the private sector for the development of hydro-electricity for both domestic consumption as well as exports. However, public sector may have to continue investing in hydropower development for some times to come because of its high multiplier effect on income and positive impact on social development. Exports of hydropower will be given high priority in the next decade. Government has already introduced new hydropower and IT policies.

Page 34, second to fifth paragraphs

Replace the existing text with the following:

Maintaining Law and Order

The progressive acceleration of violent activities waged in the name of so called "People's war" (Maoist activities) beginning from the second half of 1990 has impacted not only development activities but also taking precious lives of many. Therefore, this issue needs to be addressed seriously.

To solve this problem, government has initiated short term and long term measures which includes dialogue with Maoists to pursue them to come to peaceful solutions, socio-economic packages to affected and strengthening of law and order situations to boost public security.

The Government has already invited Maoist for dialogue. Despite Government's serious efforts, Maoists have not come forward for the dialogue. Their proposal for dialogue has been proved frivolous. The stakeholders including political parties have been requested to join hands with the Government to build common approach to deal with Maoists.

The program of actions which addresses the socio-economic problems will also play deterrent to violence. Special packages for skill training and employment opportunities for the youths, food for work and other acute development needs of the people of the affected areas will be

urgently addressed. In this context, the Government has initiated special programmes like 'basket funding' and 'Security and Development' package in the Maoist affected areas. Security arrangement for the public safety has also been strengthened.